

A vivid riddle

featuring a list of 180 Pantone™ color names arranged by hue,
and four slightly self-saturated verses by the composer

Eric Banks

Commissioned by the American Choral Directors Association
and conductor Anthony Trecek-King, to be premiered by the
National Junior High / Middle School Honor Choir
at the ACDA National Convention
in Dallas, Texas (March 2013)

Scored for mixed chorus (SATB),
string quartet, and piano
(preferably four-hands)

© 2012 Eric Banks (ASCAP). All rights reserved by the composer.
Email: eric@ericbanks.com Webpage: www.ericbanks.com

About this work

When Anthony Trecek-King originally approached me to write a piece for the National Junior High / Middle School Honor Choir, my imagination immediately went to "Holi," the Hindu festival that takes place every spring in India. During this holiday, people throw colored powders and fragrant water upon each other in celebration of the arrival of spring. (You can Google "Holi" to find images of the many-colored aftermath!)

For this occasion, I wanted to compose something that could celebrate harmony in our ears in the same that Holi celebrates color in our eyes. So, I went to Pantone, the company that is responsible for the world's most creative color names, and searched their website for names that avoided the ordinary and captured the most inventive. After choosing about 1,200 names, I narrowed it down to 180 that traverse the entire color wheel, from the lightest pastels to the darkest shades. These names are listed in the background on the front cover of this score. You might have to do some sleuthing to figure them all out.

Before composing this piece, I arranged the Pantone color names into 15 wheels of 12 colors each. The first wheels, when sung, alternate with nearly-white and almost-black hues. With each ensuing wheel, the colors grow in saturation (as the accompanying instruments grown in filigree) toward the vivid rainbow at the end. I hope to find a way for the audience to experience this visual effect (perhaps as a projection), however, it isn't really necessary. The names of the colors, when quickly read in a list, create kind of poetry -- one that creates profound beauty while referring to the quirky little things that surround us in our daily lives.

This song couldn't just be a list. [Even Billy Joel had to write a "chorus" for his hit *We didn't start the fire!*] So, in order to give it some repetition, I created the following poem about color, and phrased as a riddle:

I am dancing in your eyes
I am blushing in your face
I can take you by surprise
I can leave without a trace

I bring flavor to your food
I arrive when flowers bloom
I will elevate your mood
I will brighten any room

I am glowing in your skin
I am sprouting in your hair
I can move you deep within
I can make you more aware

I inspire great respect
I live far beneath the ground
I will cause you to reflect
I will keep you safe and sound

Who am I?

Who am I?

I am shining in the sky
I am rustling in the trees
I remind of days gone by
I might put your mind at ease

I suggest a certain wealth
And can indicate good health;
Whether gentle or intense
I bring nuance to your sense;

I am sparkling in some stones
I am bubbling up in streams
I accessorize your phones
I intensify your dreams

I transform you every day
While I help you to convey;
If you seek my joys and sing
I exist in everything...

Who am I?

Who am I?

I am honored to write *A vivid riddle* for such a great choir, and am excited to hear its premiere in Dallas. Thank you, Anthony and ACDA!



Eric Banks

©2015 Eric Banks

SA *mf*
I am dan-cing in your eyes; I am blu-shing in your face; I can take you by sur-prise; I can leave with-out a trace;

TB *mf*

V1 *with gusto*

V2 *with gusto*

Vla *with gusto*

Vlc *with gusto*

PR *with gusto*

PL *with gusto*

SA
I am glo-wing in your skin; I am sprou-ting in your hair; I can move you deep with-in; I can make you more a-ware;

TB

V1

V2

Vla

Vlc

PR

PL

SA
 Who am I? Sas - sa - fras Pow - der Puff De - sert Palm Marsh - mal - low

TB

V1

V2

Vla

Vlc

PR

PL

SA
 Duf - fel Bag Sum - mer Sho - wer Sy - ca - more Clear - wa - ter To - tal E - clipse Li - lac Hint Plum Per - fect Or - chid Ice

TB

V1

V2

Vla

Vlc

PR

PL

©2015 Eric Banks

SA
 Conch Shell Fudge - sick - le Pa - py - rus Fo - rest Night Ra - ven Light - est Sky Bil - low - ing Sail Moon - less Night

TB

V1

V2

Vla

Vlc

PR

PL

SA
 Arc - tic Ice As - tral Au - ra La - ven - der Fog Hor - ten - si - a Egg - plant Scal - lop Shell Plan - ta - tion Lime Cream

TB

V1

V2

Vla

Vlc

PR

PL

© 2015 Eric Banks

SA
 Thyme Clear-ly A - qua Pine - need - le An - gel Falls Bright Co - balt Crown Je - wel Li - lac Sa - chet

TB

V1 *optimistically*

V2 *optimistically*

Vla *optimistically*

Vlc *optimistically*

PR *optimistically*

PL *optimistically*

SA
 Blush - ing Bride Gin - ger Bread Va - nil - la Cus - tard Frost Lau - rel Wreath Shad - ed Spruce Gla - cier Ce -

TB

V1

V2

Vla

Vlc

PR

PL

©2015 Eric Banks

SA
 ru - le - an My - ste - ri - o - so I - ris Glo - xi - ni - a Prai - rie Sun - set Me - dal Bronze Young Wheat

TB

V1

V2

Vla

Vlc

PR

PL

SA
 Beet - le Mist - y Jade E - me - rald Stra - to - sphere Vi - o - la Cy - cla - men

TB
 Coast - al Fjord In - di - go

V1

V2

Vla

Vlc

PR

PL

© 2015 Eric Banks

49 *f*

SA I am shi-ning in the sky; I am rust-ling in the trees; I re-mind of days gone by; I might put your mind at ease;

TB *f*

V1 *f*

V2 *f*

Vla *f*

Vlc *f*

PR *f*

PL *f*

53

SA I am spark-ling in some stones; I am bub-bling up in streams; I ac-ces-so-rize your phones; I in-ten-si-fy your dreams;

TB

V1

V2

Vla

Vlc

PR

PL

SA
 Who am I? Straw-ber - ry Cream Tan - do - ri Spice Pe - sto Am -

TB

V1 *happily*

V2 *happily*

Vla *happily*

Vlc *happily*

PR *happily*

PL *happily*

SA
 Ju - ni - per Deep Teal Go - thic Grape A - ma - ranth
 bro - sia Ho - ney - dew Ea - ster Egg La - ven - du - la

TB

V1

V2

Vla

Vlc

PR

PL

© 2015 Eric Banks

65

SA
 Burnt Rus - set Peach Nec - tar O - live Oil But - ter - fly Ce - la - don Win - ter Sky
 Tide pool Deep

TB

V1

V2

Vla

Vlc

PR

PL

69

SA
 Lan - guid La - ven - der Moon - lite Mauve Mol - ten La - va I - gua - na
 Ul - tra - ma - rine Pe - tu - nia Al - mond Blos - som Pop - corn

TB

V1

V2

Vla

Vlc

PR

PL

© 2015 Eric Banks

73

SA
Dew - kist Sea Spray Beach Glass Na - vi - gate Ja - ca - ran - da He - li - o - trope Lu - pine Phlox

TB

V1

V2

Vla

Vlc

PR

PL

77

SA
Chi - li Pep - per De - sert Flo - wer An - tique Moss Eng - lish I - vy Am - a - zon For - get - Me - Not

TB

V1

V2

Vla

Vlc

PR

PL

©2015 Eric Banks

**THIS FILE IS INTENTIONALLY
INCOMPLETE.**

For the complete score
please purchase a print licence.



©2015 Eric Banks